

## CORRELATION ANALYSIS AND MODELLING OF HEAVY METAL CONCENTRATIONS AND PHYSICOCHEMICAL PARAMETERS FROM SOIL SAMPLES OF FIVE SELECTED REFUSE DUMPSITES IN LAFIA LGA, NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

Thousands of tons of solid wastes are generated and disposed daily in open dumps of most Nigerian cities due to rapid population explosion and commercial activities. In this study, concentrations of heavy metals and physicochemical parameters from 20 soil samples each from selected refuse dumpsites in wet and dry seasons were determined using Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer and Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) standard methods. The results showed that during the wet and dry seasons, the concentration of heavy metals, Hg, Cr, Mn were above that of World Health Organisation (WHO), and National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), while that of Pb, As, Fe, Zn, Cu and Ni were below the tolerable limits. The results for physicochemical parameters in wet and dry seasons for nitrates, phosphates and organic matter were above WHO standards. Statistical test at 0.05 probability level ( $p < 0.05$ ) was used to determine the degree of association between pairs of the variables. The principal component analysis (PCA) was performed to measure the direct and inverse relationship between these parameters and heavy metal availability. Based on the different variables obtained at the study areas, a multiple linear regression analysis was determined from which a general linear model was formulated. The study recommends appropriate government agencies should as a matter of urgency integrate the regular monitoring of waste disposal into the state developmental plan and framework in order to prevent excessive build-up of these metals in humans through the food chain.

**Keywords:** Solid wastes, heavy metals, physicochemical parameters, principal components, linear model

### INTRODUCTION

The inefficient management and uncontrollable disposal of the municipal solid waste (MSW) in big cities, especially in developing countries like Nigeria, causes serious problem to the environment. Effective control of the solid waste disposals has become one of the biggest challenges to the national and local authorities (Lekan *et al.*, 2020; Ngoc *et al.*, 2021). Dumping of solid wastes create environmental pollution related to toxins, leachate and greenhouse gases which are growing environmental concern.

All wastes have the potential to cause environmental damage. One of the recent global challenges facing towns and cities is solid waste management. The pressure of population growth causes environmental degradation and in particular solid waste thereby polluting air, water and land on which all life so critically depends (Akaeze, 2001; Saanu and Josephine, 2017). Going by the resource and energy demand on the environment and the internal pollution that man inflicts upon himself by inhalation and ingestion of alien chemical substances, man is best described as a chemical factory in terms of material use and waste (Gary and Stephen, 2000).

Heavy metals, sometimes called “trace elements” are described as those metals with specific gravity higher than  $5 \text{ g/cm}^3$ . They are stable elements that cannot be metabolized and are not biodegradable (Thelma *et al.*, 2020). They are typically classified into two major forms including essential and non-essential metals.

Essential heavy metals have beneficial role in living things at certain concentration. Some of these important heavy metals include Iron, Manganese, Copper, Zinc and Chromium among others. High concentration of essential metals in biological system could lead to toxicity on the exposed organisms. While others such as Lead, Cadmium, Mercury and Arsenic have no known role in living organisms and as such, they are highly lethal even at low concentration (Frances and Eleanor, 2003; Sylvester *et al.*, 2017).

Research yields data, and the flood of data generated by analytical instruments today produces large quantity of numbers, often complex to understand and quantify (Larry, 2009). In order to interpret such data sets, many computational methods have been designed to perform multivariate data analysis to reduce their dimensionality, so that most of the information in the data is understood and preserved. The evolution of personal computers allows faster acquisition, processing and interpretation of chemical data. Every scientist uses software designed to perform statistical analysis for better understanding of results. Chemometrics is a technique usually employed for this statistical analysis (Mendam *et al.*, 2000).

Lafia, the capital city of Nasarawa State in North Central Nigeria is faced with waste disposal problems in residential areas and other public places. It is indeed a common practice to find huge dumpsites within residential areas along major and minor roads. Lafia is experiencing problems of municipal solid waste

management principally as a result of unplanned development, rural-urban migration and natural population growth within the city. The population of Lafia by 1991 census was 87,352 inhabitants and this has been projected to 133,782 by 1998 according to Lafia Master Plan. The study has further projected the population to 263,998 by 2010, and 315,550 by 2015 using the growth rate of 3.5% per annum with an average population density of 287 persons per square kilometer (Ebuga *et al.*, 2021). This remarkable growth rate has not been matched by much improvement in the quality of urban environmental waste management. Instead, these demographic expansion, and commercial activities have caused astronomical increase in the volume and diversity of solid waste generated in the city (Adewuyi and Opasina, 2010). Similar observations have been noted in Nigerian and African cities where thousands of tons of solid waste are generated daily, while open dumping of these solid wastes is a common practice (Besufekad *et al.*, 2020). Poor waste management, improper collection and disposal of refuse are among the key factors responsible for the multiple problems threatening not only Lafia but also many of the nation and Africa's environment. Many heavy metals; Pb, Hg, As, Cd, Ba, Ag which are known poisons are also present in such wastes (Iwegbue *et al.*, 2007).

Most of the heavy metals enter the food chain via plant uptake. Vegetables absorb these metals from the ground, as well as from deposits on the parts of vegetables exposed to air from polluted environment. Recent studies have also reviewed that waste dumpsites can transfer significant levels of these toxic and persistent metals into the soil environment (Ebong *et al.*, 2008). Physicochemical parameters of soil have been reported to have a profound influence on the mobility and bioavailability of heavy metals (Tukura *et al.*, 2007; Obasi *et al.*, 2012).

All soils naturally contain trace levels of metals and as a result, the occurrence of metals in soil is not pinpointing contamination. However, the concentration of metals in uncontaminated soil is most often associated with the geology of the parent substance from which the soil is formed. Generally, leachates contain toxic substances such as heavy metals and various organic pollutants which are likely to contaminate soil and ground water (Lawan *et al.*, 2012; Mochamad *et al.*, 2014).

In Nigeria, several studies have been carried out on the impact of wastes and other activities on soil, air and water quality (Sylvester *et al.*, 2017). Several pollution indices are available in literature for the assessment of environmental quality. Several authors have widely assessed pollution load and or contamination indices of heavy metals on environmental components using different load indices (Kabata-Pendias, 2011). Additionally, many studies have also focused on heavy metal concentration, distribution and source apportionment. These studies have used various chemical analytical techniques such as soil digestion,

sequential extraction and studies mainly concentrated on the influences of anthropogenic activities. Others have explored the impact of different factors on the heavy metal accumulation and distribution patterns at the dumpsites (Adewuyi and Opasina, 2010; Torres-Bejarano *et al.*, 2019).

However, information on the chemometric assessment, such as pattern of distribution, or recognition, modeling (mathematical/regression equation), and forecasting of heavy metal concentration from waste dumpsites in Lafia Metropolis specifically and environs in particular is scanty or non-existent in literature. While the world is geared towards the fourth industrial revolution where artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, augmented reality, internet of things (IOT), etc. is playing a major role, developing countries like Nigeria are yet to adopt, apply and test the efficiency of machine learning in the solid waste management (Anthony *et al.*, 2021).

The study determined the concentration of heavy metals and physicochemical parameters from selected soil samples in refuse-dumpsites in five geographical zones of Lafia Local Government Area. The study ascertained the level of contributions of composite parameters to the heavy metal concentrations using principal component Analysis (PCA), and developed a general multi-linear model to estimate the concentration of the respective heavy metals using the physicochemical parameters in the respective dumpsites.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Reagents

The chemicals and reagents used in this study were: chromic acid, potassium permanganate, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, silver chromate, potassium dichromate, concentrated sulphuric acid, ferrous ammonium sulphate, calcium chloride, potassium chloride, all of Analytical Grade. Distilled water was used for the preparation of solution.

### Apparatus

The apparatus used were beakers, flasks, pipettes, burettes, digestion apparatus, filtration apparatus, glass bottles, polythene bags, plastic containers, sample labels and markers, gloves and protective clothing, sampling tools (soil Auger, trowel, core sampler).

### Equipment and instruments

The equipment and instruments used in the study were: Analytical balance, centrifuge, reflux condenser, spectrophotometer, Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer, oven or muffle furnace, fume cupboard, thermometer, pH meter, conductivity meter, Global Positioning System (GPS) device.

### Description of the study area

The study area is Lafia Local Government Area with about fifty neighborhoods Lafia is the capital of Nasarawa State which is located in the middle belt region of Nigeria. The state lies between longitude 7° and 9°37'E of the Greenwich meridian and has an altitude of 600 m above sea level (Ayi, 2003; Akwa *et al.*, 2007). Lafia town is the headquarters of Lafia Local

Government which is the third largest in the state with a land area of 2,797 sq. km. Nasarawa (5,743 sq. km), Awe (2,800 sq. km), and Karu (2,710 sq. km) are the first, second, and fourth largest Local Governments in that order.

## Methods

### Sample collection

Soil samples (wastes) were collected at 0-15 cm below the top soil with the aid of soil Auger, from twenty (10 refuse dumpsites, and 10 control sites) across the Lafia metropolis and environs; North, South, East, West and Central (Table 1) in wet season (September, 2021) and dry season (March, 2022). The sampling units cut across five geographical locations or positions namely; Shabu, Ombi I, Bukan Sidi, Tudun Amba, Mararaba Akunza, and Tudun Abu. Each sampling unit from the refuse dumpsites was 50 m, 100 m apart and the control was far away from refuse dumpsites. Composite of individual units of three samples were taken from each dumpsites (Rasool *et al.*, 2007; Anake *et al.*, 2009; Aremu *et al.*, 2010; Opaluwa *et al.*, 2012).

**Table 1: Geographical locations of sampling sites**

S/ N	Location	Sites	No. of samples collected	
			Wet	Dry
1	Northern part of Lafia Metropolis	1. Shabu	2	2
2	Central part of Lafia Metropolis	2. Ombi I	2	2
3	Western part of Lafia Metropolis	3. TudunAmba	2	2
4	Southern part of Lafia Metropolis	4. MararabaAkunza	2	2
5	Eastern part of Lafia Metropolis	5. Tudun Abu	2	2
<b>Total</b>			<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

### Sample preparation

Composite samples made by mixing individual sample units were put in a polythene bag, tightly sealed to prevent breakdown of organic matter and taken to the Muhammadu Buhari TETFund Centre of Excellence (MBTCE), FULAFIA for analysis. The samples were air dried for 48 h, ground to pass through a 2 mm sieve to remove debris, gravel and other materials. Samples at 50, 100 m from each refuse dumpsites and control sites, 200 m from each of the dumpsites were determined. Results obtained were expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three replicate measurements.

### Global positioning system: Coordinates and elevation of the sampling sites

With the use of Global Positioning System meter (GPS ETREX Garmin), the coordinates and elevations of each sampling points were measured and the results were recorded as shown in Table 2 (Vincent *et al.*, 2012; Nabil *et al.*, 2014; Ediene and Umoefok, 2017).

**Table 2: Geographical positions of the soil samples taken from different locations of refuse dumpsites**

S/N	Location	Northing	Easting	Altitude (m)
1	Shabu (Akurba Road)	451967	947331	175
2	Shabu (KofarMagajiMallam)	451975	947346	179
3	Ombi I (Transformer Street)	448576	945027	173
4	Ombi I (DD Hall)	448584	945014	172
5	TudunAmba (DOMA Road)	446778	938965	182
6	TudunAmba (DOMA Road)	446772	938964	187
7	M/Akunza (FULafia)	454698	936441	206
8	M/Akunza (FULafia)	454689	936449	206
9	Tudun Abu (Shendam Road)	451480	941038	202
10	Tudun Abu (Shendam Road)	451474	941045	201

### Physicochemical analysis of samples

The physicochemical analysis of the soil samples was determined according to the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC, 2013) standard methods. The pH, temperature were determined *in situ* and recorded at the sampling sites. Nitrates, Phosphates, Chlorides, Sulphates and other physical parameters such as BOD, COD, TDS, DO, were determined using standard methods (Vincent *et al.*, 2012; Henry *et al.*, 2017; Thelma *et al.*, 2020).

### Determination of pH and temperature

The pH of the soil samples were determined by adding 10 g of air dried and sieved soil sample to 25 mL of distilled water. The mixture was stirred and allowed to stand for 30 min. The electrode of the calibrated pH meter was immersed into the slurry (partially settled suspension) and readings were taken. The temperature of the soil was obtained by pushing the soil thermometer into the soil until the tip is 7 cm below the soil surface. The soil temperature was read after 2 min (Obaliagbon *et al.*, 2006; Adewuyi and Opasina, 2010; Saida *et al.*, 2019).

### Moisture content

Moisture content was determined by laboratory measurements using standard procedures as adopted and reported by Akinbile *et al.* (2016). A portion (1 g) of a representative sample of the soil was placed in a clean core sampler of known mass, the mass of the container and soil sample to be determined ( $W_2$ ) using an analytical balance. The core sampler was placed in an oven maintained at  $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 h to obtain a constant weight ( $W_1$ ). The measurement was done and the percentage moisture was calculated as follows:

$$\% \text{ Moisture} = \frac{(W_2 - W_1)}{W_1} \times 100$$

Where;

$W_2$  = weight of core sampler + weight of sample before oven drying;

$W_1$  = weight of core sampler + weight of sample after oven drying (Olayinka *et al.*, 2007). The moisture content of the soil is an indication of the amount of water present in the soil.

### Organic carbon and organic matter determination

Organic carbon and organic matter determination was carried out by chromic acid oxidation or dichromate wet oxidation method of Walkley and Black (Arshi and Khan, 2018). The soil sample was oxidized by potassium dichromate solution in the concentrated acid medium. The excess potassium dichromate was titrated with ferrous ammonium sulphate, which is a reducing agent. The percentage organic matter ( $M_O$ ) was deduced from the percentage of organic carbon using a specific  $M_O$  to C factor. The percentage of organic carbon was calculated as follows;

$$\% \text{ Organic C} = \frac{N(T-B)}{W} \times 0.390$$

Where N= Normality of  $KMnO_4$

T = Volume of  $KMnO_4$  used in titration of soil or sample titre value; B = Volume of  $KMnO_4$  used in titration of blank (Blank titre value); W = Weight of air-dried soil sample in grams; % Organic Matter = % Organic Carbon x 1.724 (Olayinka *et al.*, 2007)

### Electrical conductivity (EC)

Electrical conductivity (EC) was determined from the filtrates obtained from the suspension for pH analysis using conductivity meter. The electrical conductivity (EC), expressed in micro-Siemens  $cm^{-1}$  of the soil was monitored as reported by Saida *et al.* (2019).

### Other parameters

TDS, DO, COD, BOD,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $PO_4^{2-}$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ , were determined as outlined by Adewuyi and Opasina (2010); Obasi *et al.* (2012);  $NO_3^-$ , by phenoldisulphonic acid method.  $PO_4^{2-}$  was analyzed colorimetrically by molybdophosphoric acid, while  $Cl^-$  was determined by Volhard method. Sulphate was determined by gravimetric method. TDS, DO, COD,

BOD were determined according to standard methods by AOAC (2013).

### Digestion of samples and determination of heavy metals

Two gram (2.0 g) of the sieved soil samples were digested for 3 h at  $85^\circ C$  in 12 mL of aqua regia (3:1 HCl- $HNO_3$ v/v) using hot plate in a fume cupboard until white fumes were observed. The sample was allowed to cool to room temperature and then diluted with distilled water and adjusted to zero mark. The mixture was then transferred into a 100 mL volumetric flask after filtering using Whatman No. 42 filter paper and adjusted to zero mark with distilled water. The extracts (digested soil waste samples) were analyzed for the heavy metals; Pb, Hg, As, Cd, Cr, Fe, Zn, Cu, Mn, Ni, using AAS (Oketola and Akpotu, 2013; Saida *et al.*, 2019).

### Chemometric analysis and interpretation

The Principal Component Analysis, Correlation Analysis of the data were obtained using the Minitab-19 computer software package to ascertain the level of contributions of composite parameters to the heavy metal concentrations using principal component Analysis (PCA), and to develop a general multi-linear model to estimate the concentration of the respective heavy metals using the physicochemical parameters in the respective dumpsites.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the concentrations of heavy metals of soil samples and composting physicochemical parameters of soil samples from refuse dumpsites obtained in September 2021 for the wet season and March 2022 for the dry season in five geographical zones of Lafia Township and Environs are presented in Tables 3 – 6.

**Table 3: Concentrations of heavy metals in soil samples from selected refuse dumpsites at different geographical locations in wet season**

S/N	Sample Code	Heavy Metals									
		Pb (mg/kg)	Hg (mg/kg)	As (mg/kg)	Cr (mg/kg)	Fe (mg/kg)	Zn (mg/kg)	Cu (mg/kg)	Mn (mg/kg)	Ni (mg/kg)	B (mg/kg)
1	AKR1	0.105	0.414	0.151	0.672	0.336	0.346	0.775	0.809	0.065	0.307
		±0.041	±0.037	±0.086	±0.037	±0.093	±0.066	±0.105	±0.095	±0.022	±0.033
2	KMM1	0.342	0.067	0.751	0.578	0.578	0.300	1.317	1.266	0.384	0.515
		±0.049	±0.008	±0.102	±0.107	±0.034	±0.038	±0.887	±0.327	±0.104	±0.189
3	TS1	0.415	3.270	0.538	0.559	0.308	0.050	0.332	0.574	0.466	0.288
		±0.017	±0.221	±0.112	±0.033	±0.047	±0.009	±0.107	±0.101	±0.065	±0.045
4	DDH1	0.772	0.586	0.654	0.496	0.159	0.125	0.324	0.652	0.534	0.741
		±0.184	±0.108	±0.056	±0.190	±0.072	±0.097	±0.064	±0.234	±0.214	±0.201
5	DR1	0.792	0.000	0.077	0.880	0.383	0.131	0.406	0.480	0.756	0.353
		±0.621	±0.000	±0.031	±0.218	±0.108	±0.084	±0.068	±0.021	±0.083	±0.069
6	DR2	0.547	0.100	0.386	1.026	0.365	0.093	0.130	1.116	0.738	1.217
		±0.219	±0.089	±0.068	±0.318	±0.109	±0.021	±0.010	±0.062	±0.083	±0.521
7	FULTO1	0.142	0.071	0.000	0.428	0.165	0.000	0.217	1.354	0.615	1.025
		±0.033	±0.083	±0.000	±0.521	±0.062	±0.000	±0.062	±0.520	±0.078	±0.083
8	FULTO2	0.000	0.129	0.236	0.264	0.403	0.038	0.273	0.651	0.517	0.574
		±0.000	±0.072	±0.061	±0.084	±0.041	±0.031	±0.083	±0.078	±0.062	±0.078
9	TASR1	0.252	0.228	0.000	0.117	0.288	0.169	0.184	0.961	0.411	1.496
		±0.078	±0.073	±0.000	±0.064	±0.085	±0.094	±0.082	±0.092	±0.072	±0.627
10	TASR2	0.140	0.367	0.249	0.277	0.166	0.102	0.303	1.385	0.845	0.184
		±0.085	±0.086	±0.094	±0.042	±0.072	±0.042	±0.087	±0.032	±0.055	±0.052
WHO(mg/kg)		0.3-10	0.001-0.04	10	0.002-0.2	100-1000	12-60	1-12	0.1	0.1-5	NA
NESREA(mg/kg)		0.1	0.0005	0.05	NA	0.5	NA	0.01	NA	NA	NA

AKR = AkurbaRoad; KMM = KofarMagajiMallam; TS = Transformer Street; DDH = DD Hall; DR = Doma Road; FULTO = Fed Univ of Lafia Take-Off Site; TASR = Tudun Abu (Shendam Road); NA = Not Available

**Table 4: Concentrations of heavy metals in soil samples from selected refuse dumpsites at different geographical locations in dry season**

S/N	Sample Code	Heavy Metals									
		Pb (mg/kg)	Hg (mg/kg)	As (mg/kg)	Cr (mg/kg)	Fe (mg/kg)	Zn (mg/kg)	Cu (mg/kg)	Mn (mg/kg)	Ni (mg/kg)	B (mg/kg)
1	AKR1	1.560	0.150	3.770	2.833	0.437	3.456	1.783	0.485	0.037	0.207
		±0.041	±0.037	±0.086	±0.037	±0.093	±0.066	±0.105	±0.095	±0.022	±0.033
2	KMM1	0.960	0.312	0.662	4.500	0.568	4.856	5.043	2.364	0.244	0.416
		±0.049	±0.008	±0.102	±0.107	±0.034	±0.038	±0.887	±0.327	±0.104	±0.189
3	TS1	0.160	2.160	0.392	4.433	0.359	2.529	0.232	3.091	0.567	0.367
		±0.017	±0.221	±0.112	±0.033	±0.047	±0.009	±0.107	±0.101	±0.065	±0.045
4	DDH1	0.160	0.431	1.068	4.500	0.376	4.147	0.425	2.309	0.435	0.642
		±0.184	±0.108	±0.056	±0.190	±0.072	±0.097	±0.064	±0.234	±0.214	±0.201
5	DR1	0.560	0.000	0.932	0.067	0.482	5.414	0.036	1.030	0.556	0.253
		±0.621	±0.000	±0.031	±0.218	±0.108	±0.084	±0.068	±0.021	±0.083	±0.069
6	DR2	0.670	0.000	0.527	0.167	0.563	2.292	0.043	2.970	0.768	1.106
		±0.219	±0.089	±0.068	±0.318	±0.109	±0.021	±0.010	±0.062	±0.083	±0.521
7	FULTO1	0.132	0.052	0.000	0.323	0.093	0.000	0.106	1.205	0.345	0.078
		±0.033	±0.083	±0.000	±0.521	±0.062	±0.000	±0.062	±0.520	±0.078	±0.083
8	FULTO2	0.096	0.110	0.132	0.132	0.526	0.003	0.142	0.542	0.418	0.360
		±0.000	±0.072	±0.061	±0.084	±0.041	±0.031	±0.083	±0.078	±0.062	±0.078
9	TASR1	0.425	0.123	0.000	0.108	0.276	0.223	0.253	0.843	0.318	1.362
		±0.078	±0.073	±0.000	±0.064	±0.085	±0.094	±0.082	±0.092	±0.072	±0.627
10	TASR2	0.216	0.345	0.020	0.326	0.176	0.216	0.268	0.946	0.346	0.174
		±0.085	±0.086	±0.094	±0.042	±0.072	±0.042	±0.087	±0.032	±0.055	±0.052
WHO(mg/kg)		0.3-10	0.001-0.04	10	0.002-0.2	100-1000	12-60	1-12	0.1	0.1-5	NA
NESREA(mg/kg)		0.1	0.0005	0.05	NA	0.5	NA	0.01	NA	NA	NA

AKR = Akurba Road; KMM = KofarMagajiMallam; TS = Transformer Street; DDH = DD Hall; DR = Doma Road; FULTO = Fed Univ of Lafia Take-Off Site; TASR = Tudun Abu (Shendam Road); NA = Not Available

**Table 5: Results of physicochemical parameters of soil samples from selected refuse dumpsites at different geographical locations in wet season**

Sample Code	Physicochemical Parameters													
	pH	Temp. (°C)	EC (µS/cm)	Moisture Content (%)	Organic Carbon %(w/w)	Organic Matter %(w/w)	TDS mg/L	COD mg/L	BOD mg/L	DO mg/L	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> mg/L	PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> mg/L	Cl <sup>-</sup> mg/L	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> mg/L
1 AKR1	6.8	27.9	74.0	9.69	1.81	3.13	40	1.60	4.20	6.4	7.14	0.58	21.27	27.60
	±0.3	±0.4	±0.0	±0.1	±0.8	±0.2	±0.0	±0.4	±0.8	±0.9	±0.9	±0.6	±0.8	±0.0
2KMM1	7.7	28.8	57.3	15.84	1.77	3.07	34	2.10	2.40	4.7	1280.00	7.21	14.18	14.35
	±0.5	±0.1	±0.3	±0.4	±0.1	±0.8	±0.4	±0.2	±0.5	±0.0	±0.8	±0.4	±0.0	±0.6
3 TS1	7.5	28.7	93.6	4.12	1.78	3.08	30.0	1.30	4.20	6.0	2731.15	0.09	7.28	35.42
	±0.0	±0.3	±0.8	±0.5	±0.1	±0.3	±0.4	±0.2	±0.3	±0.7	±0.3	±0.4	±0.2	±0.8
4 DDH1	7.7	28.3	47.3	4.11	1.78	3.10	40.0	1.21	1.80	3.1	934.30	0.21	14.08	8.50
	±0.8	±0.1	±0.4	±0.9	±0.5	±0.4	±0.2	±0.3	±0.1	±0.4	±0.0	±0.1	±0.1	±0.2
5 DR1	7.08	28.5	55.5	11.85	1.82	3.13	40.0	2.01	2.00	5.1	736.21	7.86	14.18	14.06
	±0.3	±0.4	±0.6	±0.3	±0.8	±0.5	±0.6	±0.7	±0.6	±0.2	±0.9	±0.6	±0.3	±0.1
6 DR2	6.39	28.6	28.8	6.37	1.80	3.12	20.0	1.20	3.2	5.5	731.01	7.80	35.45	11.20
	±0.6	±0.3	±0.1	±0.4	±0.2	±0.2	±0.2	±0.3	±0.3	±0.5	±0.6	±0.6	±0.5	±0.4
7 FULTO1	6.70	28.6	45.7	8.57	1.89	3.24	80.0	2.00	2.40	4.80	978.21	1.26	7.09	10.26
	±0.4	±0.7	±0.1	±0.1	±0.8	±0.6	±0.5	±0.9	±0.1	±0.2	±0.6	±0.9	±0.4	±0.2
8 FULTO2	5.08	27.6	24.9	8.15	1.72	2.96	10.0	2.30	3.20	5.40	721.30	2.31	35.14	9.25
	±0.8	±0.2	±0.2	±0.7	±0.8	±0.3	±0.4	±0.1	±0.6	±0.2	±0.4	±0.6	±0.1	±0.6
9 TASR1	6.86	28.6	46.00	3.21	1.82	3.14	24.42	2.01	3.20	5.60	936.70	0.31	30.28	11.21
	±0.5	±0.6	±0.8	±0.1	±0.5	±0.4	±0.4	±0.2	±0.7	±0.4	±0.6	±0.3	±0.5	±0.1
10 TASR2	7.90	29.5	30.40	3.50	1.80	3.10	14.48	2.30	2.40	5.70	946.31	2.96	7.09	10.26
	±0.0	±0.1	±0.2	±0.3	±0.2	±0.2	±0.2	±0.6	±0.8	±0.7	±0.5	±0.8	±0.8	±0.4
WHO(mg/kg)		6.5-8.5	NA	1400	21-40	0.5-3.0	3	500	<5	<5	6.5-8.0	30	2.8-4.5	250
NESREA(mg/kg)		6.5-8.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	30	NA	6	40	NA	350

AKR = Akurba Road; KMM = KofarMagajiMallam; TS = Transformer Street; DDH = DD Hall; DR = Doma Road; FULTO = Fed Univ of Lafia Take-Off Site; TASR = Tudun Abu (Shendam Road); NA = Not Available

**Table 6: Results of physicochemical parameters of soil samples from selected refuse dumpsites at different geographical locations in dry season**

Sample Code	Physicochemical Parameters													
	pH	Temp. (°C)	EC (µS/cm)	Moisture Content (%)	Organic Carbon % (w/w)	Organic Matter % (w/w)	TDS mg/L	COD mg/L	BOD mg/L	DO mg/L	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> mg/L	PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> mg/L	Cl <sup>-</sup> mg/L	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> mg/L
1 AKR1	7.26	28.2	325	0.52	1.78	3.05	160	1.20	4.00	6.20	1040	0.87	77.99	47.80
	±0.2	±0.3	±0.0	±0.1	±0.7	±0.1	±0.1	±0.4	±0.7	±0.6	±0.6	±0.4	±0.6	±0.1
2 KMM1	7.79	27.5	196.7	0.61	1.88	3.23	170	2.20	2.00	4.20	2745.26	14.39	42.54	24.02
	±0.3	±0.1	±0.2	±0.6	±0.1	±0.6	±0.3	±0.3	±0.3	±0.2	±0.3	±0.2	±0.0	±0.4
3 TS1	5.03	32.6	9.00 ±0.6	0.28	1.76	3.03	480	2.20	2.00	6.20	3797.89	0.17	85.08	51.53
	±0.4	±±0.3		±0.4	±0.1	±0.4	±0.0	±0.2	±0.2	±0.4	±0.2	±0.3	±0.1	±0.6
4 DDH1	8.99	32.4	47.0	0.37	1.78	3.05	40	1.10	2.00	4.20	1082.10	0.45	42.54	19.26
	±0.6	±0.6	±0.6	±0.3	±0.4	±0.6	±0.4	±0.3	±0.3	±0.4	±0.0	±0.2	±0.6	±0.3
5 DR1	8.88	38.9	39.8	0.61	1.78	3.05	20	1.10	2.00	4.20	176.84	14.39	42.56	24.82
	±0.4	±0.6	±0.1	±0.1	±0.4	±0.1	±0.4	±0.1	±0.4	±0.3	±0.6	±0.1	±0.3	±0.2
6 DR2	8.32	39.7	60	0.84	1.82	3.13	30	2.10	4.00	6.20	787.36	14.82	35.86	17.53
	±0.2	±0.4	±0.2	±0.2	±0.1	±0.3	±0.2	±0.3	±0.5	±0.2	±0.1	±0.3	±0.4	±0.3
7 FULTO1	8.06	28.9	64.4	0.70	1.88	3.23	30	2.10	4.00	6.20	1448	3.48	49.60	19.45
	±0.1	±0.4	±0.4	±0.4	±0.3	±0.3	±0.4	±0.6	±0.4	±0.6	±0.7	±0.4	±0.2	±0.2
8 FULTO2	5.43	30.0	28.9	0.72	1.60	2.75	10	0.10	0.00	2.20	1103.5	1.72	35.50	19.30
	±0.3	±0.5	±0.5	±0.6	±0.4	±0.4	±0.3	±0.1	±0.0	±0.3	±0.6	±0.3	±0.3	±0.4
9 TASR1	7.40	30.5	23	0.30	1.81	3.11	10	1.10	4.00	6.20	379.60	1.32	49.25	17.50
	±0.1	±0.4	±0.4	±0.6	±0.2	±0.4	±0.2	±0.2	±0.3	±0.6	±0.4	±0.5	±0.0	±0.2
10 TASR2	8.17	28.4	25.6	0.40	1.87	3.22	10	2.10	2.00	6.20	1073.5	0.49	36.45	51.40
	±0.2	±0.4	±0.1	±0.3	±0.1	±0.2	±0.2	±0.1	±0.1	±0.4	±0.3	±0.3	±0.1	±0.3
WHO (mg/kg)	6.5-8.5	NA	1400	21-40	0.5-3.0	3	500	<5	<5	6.5-8.0	30	2.8-4.5	250	200
NESREA (mg/kg)	6.5-8.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	30	NA	6	40	NA	350	500

AKR = Akurba Road; KMM = KofarMagajiMallam; TS = Transformer Street; DDH = DD Hall; DR = Doma Road; FULTO = Fed Univ of Lafia Take-Off Site; TASR = Tudun Abu (Shendam Road); NA = Not Available

Table 3 showed the results of concentration of heavy metals across the sampling units in Shabu in wet season. The results showed elevated concentration of Hg, Cr, and Mn above the maximum objectionable limit of World Health Organisation (WHO) and National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA). The concentrations of Hg across the sampling units ranged from 0.051 mg/kg in the second sampling point of KofarMagajiMallam which is 100 m away from the refuse dumpsite to 0.414 mg/kg in the first sampling point of Akurba Road (50 m from refuse dumpsite). The concentrations observed for Hg were above the WHO of 0.04 and 0.0005 mg/kg set by NESREA (Edieme and Umoetok, 2017; Adeyemi-Ale *et al.*, 2018; Agbeshie *et al.*, 2020; Franklin *et al.*, 2020). The results obtained could be attributed to disposals or emissions of metal wastes from municipal areas into the soil environment. Heavy metals are major components of these wastes and have been implicated in several metal-related diseases and food poisoning in man (Raymond and Felix, 2011; Chessed *et al.*, 2018). The concentrations of Chromium (Cr) range from 0.302 mg/kg in the second sampling point of Akurba Road to 0.672 mg/kg of the first sampling point of Akurba Road above the maximum threshold limit of 0.002-0.2 mg/kg (WHO). The high concentrations of Chromium could be attributed to disposal of electronic wastes, used refrigerators, used computers, cables (Vodyanitskii,

2016; Benedicta *et al.*, 2017). The concentrations of Manganese (Mn) range from 0.694 mg/kg of the second sampling point of KofarMagajiMallam to 1.266 mg/kg of the first sampling point of KofarMagajiMallam above the threshold limit of 0.1 mg/kg. The concentrations of Mn in these locations are attributed to the disposal of household products and electronic devices that contain this metal (Iwegbue *et al.*, 2010; Nnorom and Osibanjo, 2021).

However, the concentrations of Lead (Pb), Arsenic (As), Iron (Fe), Zinc (Zn), Copper (Cu) and Nickel (Ni) in the remaining locations of the different dumpsites in Shabu were below the maximum tolerable limit and pose no risk to the environment. Soil is a major sink of heavy metals released into the environment by industrial and human activities and most heavy metals commonly found at contaminated refuse dumpsites are Pb, Hg, As, Cd, Cr, Cu, Zn, and Ni (Edieme and Umoetok, 2017; Lekan *et al.*, 2020).

Table 4 showed the results of concentration of heavy metals across the sampling units in Shabu in dry season. The results showed elevated concentration of Hg, Cr, and Mn above the maximum objectionable limit of World Health Organisation (WHO) and National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA). The concentrations of Hg across the sampling units range from 0.006 mg/kg of the second sampling points of KofarMagajiMallam to

0.317 mg/kg of the second sampling point of Akurba Road. The concentrations observed for Hg were above the WHO threshold limit of 0.04 and 0.0005 mg/kg set by NESREA (Edieme and Umoetok, 2017; Adeyemi-Ale *et al.*, 2018; Agbeshie *et al.*, 2020; Franklin *et al.*, 2020).

The concentrations of Chromium (Cr) range from 2.800 mg/kg in the first sampling point of Akurba Road to 4.533 mg/kg of the second sampling point of KofarMagajiMallam above the maximum threshold limit of 0.2 mg/kg (WHO). The high concentrations of Chromium could be attributed to disposal of electronic wastes, used refrigerators, used computers, cables (Vodyanitskii, 2016; Benedicta *et al.*, 2017).

The concentrations of Manganese (Mn) range from 0.667 mg/kg of the second sampling point of Akurba Road to 2.364 mg/kg of the first sampling point of KofarMagajiMallam above the threshold limit of 0.1 mg/kg. The concentrations of Mn in these locations are attributed to the disposal of household products and electronic devices that contain this metal (Iwegbue *et al.*, 2010; Nnorom and Osibanjo, 2021).

In Table 5, the concentrations of nitrates across the sampling points in Shabu range from 7.14 mg/L in the first sampling point of Akurba Road to 1,280 mg/L of the first sampling point of KofarMagajiMallam above the threshold limit of 30 mg/L. The high level of nitrates suggests high inputs of macro-nutrients of Nitrogen, Phosphorus from refuse and run-off from nearby farmlands where fertilizers are applied (Beniah and Christian, 2020; Orodu and Morokowei, 2022).

The concentrations of phosphates range from 0.20 mg/L in the second sampling point of Akurba Road to 7.25 mg/L of the second sampling point of KofarMagajiMallam above the maximum permissible limit of 4.5 mg/L. The high level of phosphates in these locations during the wet season is attributed to the run-off from farmlands from inhabitants who engage in agricultural activities using both natural and synthetic fertilizers. As a result, the refuse dumpsites close to these farmlands are prone to this high level of phosphates. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the most important primary nutrients in soil, while micronutrients such as Fe, Mn, Cu, Zn, and Ni are taken up by plants in their cationic forms (Beniah and Christian, 2020).

However, the remaining results other parameters obtained during the wet season are low and within

WHO permissible level (Mekonnen *et al.*, 2020; Besufekad *et al.*, 2020).

In Table 6, the concentrations of nitrates across the sampling points in Shabu range from 492.63 mg/L in the second sampling point of KofarMagajiMallam to 2,745.26 mg/L of the first sampling point of KofarMagajiMallam above the threshold limit of 30 mg/L. The high level of nitrates suggests high inputs of macro-nutrients of Nitrogen, Phosphorus from refuse and run-off from nearby farmlands where fertilizers are applied (Beniah and Christian, 2020; Orodu and Morokowei, 2022).

The concentrations of phosphates range from 0.35 mg/L in the second sampling point of Akurba Road to 14.39 mg/L of the second sampling point of KofarMagajiMallam above the maximum permissible limit of 4.5 mg/L. The high level of phosphates in these locations during the wet season is attributed to the run-off from farmlands from inhabitants who engage in agricultural activities using both natural and synthetic fertilizers. As a result, the refuse dumpsites close to these farmlands are prone to this high level of phosphates. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the most important primary nutrients in soil, while micronutrients such as Fe, Mn, Cu, Zn, and Ni are taken up by plants in their cationic forms (Beniah and Christian, 2020).

The concentrations of organic matter in these locations range from 3.05% (w/w) of the first sampling point of Akurba Road to 3.23% (w/w) of both the second sampling point of Akurba Road and the first sampling point of KofarMagajiMallam. The moderately high concentration of organic matter provides information about the amount of decomposed plant and animal material in the soil which directly influence nutrient availability, water retention capacity, and microbial activity. This could be due to the presence of garden waste, food waste and high proportions of paper and packaging materials since more than half of the municipal waste consist of paper (Oluyemi *et al.*, 2008; Sani and Abba, 2012; Wodaje and Alemayehu, 2014). However, the remaining results other parameters obtained during the wet season are low and within WHO permissible level (Mekonnen *et al.*, 2020; Besufekad *et al.*, 2020).

**Table 7a: Correlation matrix of some heavy metals and selected physicochemical parameters in Shabu for wet season**

Para.	Pb	Hg	As	Cr	Fe	Zn	Cu	Mn	Ni	B	pH
Hg	-0.627										
	0.258										
As	-0.343	-0.390									
	0.572	0.517									
Cr	-0.186	0.724	-0.224								
	0.765	0.166	0.717								
Fe	-0.322	-0.199	0.931	0.133							
	0.597	0.748	0.022	0.831							
Zn	-0.976	0.529	0.517	0.212	0.520						
	0.004	0.360	0.372	0.733	0.369						
Cu	0.902	-0.477	-0.176	0.170	-0.018	-0.814					
	0.036	0.417	0.777	0.785	0.977	0.094					
Mn	-0.423	-0.441	0.863	-0.610	0.625	0.515	-0.472				
	0.478	0.458	0.060	0.274	0.259	0.375	0.422				
Ni	0.926	-0.636	-0.064	-0.006	0.035	-0.825	0.981	-0.315			
	0.024	0.248	0.919	0.992	0.956	0.085	0.003	0.606			
B	0.962	-0.389	-0.547	0.030	-0.458	-0.970	0.895	-0.655	0.867		
	0.009	0.517	0.340	0.962	0.438	0.006	0.040	0.230	0.057		
pH	0.090	-0.290	0.695	0.305	0.864	0.121	0.434	0.261	0.450	-0.004	
	0.886	0.636	0.193	0.618	0.059	0.847	0.465	0.672	0.447	0.994	
Temp	-0.501	-0.221	0.923	-0.196	0.843	0.641	-0.358	0.846	-0.261	-0.674	0.480
	0.389	0.721	0.025	0.753	0.073	0.244	0.554	0.071	0.672	0.212	0.413
MC	0.169	-0.376	0.584	0.119	0.683	0.005	0.406	0.263	0.443	0.061	0.655
	0.786	0.533	0.301	0.849	0.204	0.993	0.498	0.670	0.455	0.922	0.230
OC	-0.988	0.731	0.209	0.274	0.217	0.943	-0.890	0.288	-0.938	-0.911	-0.156
	0.002	0.161	0.736	0.655	0.726	0.016	0.043	0.639	0.018	0.032	0.803
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	0.832	-0.520	-0.015	0.153	0.138	-0.716	0.964	-0.339	0.960	0.796	0.507
	0.080	0.369	0.981	0.806	0.825	0.174	0.008	0.577	0.009	0.107	0.383
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	-0.751	0.897	-0.074	0.671	0.099	0.708	-0.543	-0.173	-0.670	-0.574	-0.005
	0.143	0.039	0.906	0.215	0.874	0.181	0.345	0.781	0.216	0.312	0.994

**Table 7b**

parameter	Temp	MC	OC	PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>
MC	0.639			
	0.246			
OC	0.369	-0.267		
	0.541	0.664		
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	-0.138	0.627	-0.849	
	0.825	0.257	0.069	
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	-0.033	-0.387	0.828	-0.604
	0.958	0.520	0.083	0.281

**Cell Contents: Pearson correlation  
P-Value**



**Table 8a: Correlation matrix of some heavy metals and selected physicochemical parameters in Shabu for dry season**

Para.	Pb	Hg	As	Cr	Fe	Zn	Cu	Mn	Ni	B	pH
Hg	0.553										
	0.334										
As	0.843	0.052									
	0.073	0.933									
Cr	-0.947	-0.307	0.888								
	0.014	0.615	0.044								
Fe	0.416	0.955	-0.026	-0.118							
	0.486	0.011	0.967	0.850							
Zn	-0.309	0.447	-0.504	0.597	0.674						
	0.613	0.451	0.386	0.288	0.212						
Cu	0.479	0.993	-0.048	-0.243	0.936	0.447					
	0.414	0.001	0.939	0.694	0.019	0.450					
Mn	-0.861	-0.090	-0.912	0.975	0.101	0.735	-0.026				
	0.061	0.886	0.031	0.005	0.872	0.157	0.967				
Ni	-0.982	-0.690	-0.753	0.873	-0.579	0.135	-0.619	0.750			
	0.003	0.197	0.141	0.054	0.306	0.829	0.265	0.144			
B	0.432	0.958	-0.011	-0.136	1.000	0.662	0.939	0.083	-0.593		
	0.468	0.010	0.986	0.828	0.000	0.224	0.018	0.894	0.292		
pH	0.033	0.303	0.054	0.234	0.559	0.803	0.232	0.327	-0.153	0.554	
	0.958	0.620	0.931	0.705	0.327	0.102	0.707	0.591	0.806	0.333	
Temp	0.503	0.197	0.292	-0.662	-0.102	-0.739	0.232	-0.657	-0.422	-0.090	-0.823
	0.388	0.750	0.633	0.224	0.871	0.154	0.708	0.228	0.479	0.886	0.087
MC	0.358	0.379	0.004	-0.452	0.099	-0.490	0.441	-0.397	-0.332	0.107	-0.766
	0.554	0.529	0.995	0.445	0.874	0.402	0.457	0.509	0.586	0.864	0.131
OC	-0.476	0.301	-0.854	0.522	0.244	0.316	0.413	0.607	0.384	0.234	-0.310
	0.418	0.622	0.065	0.367	0.693	0.605	0.490	0.278	0.524	0.704	0.611
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	-0.943	-0.301	-0.882	1.000	-0.108	0.609	-0.239	0.977	0.866	-0.126	0.252
	0.016	0.622	0.048	0.000	0.862	0.276	0.698	0.004	0.058	0.840	0.683
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	0.579	-0.013	0.835	-0.519	0.080	-0.053	-0.134	-0.535	-0.543	0.089	0.549
	0.307	0.983	0.079	0.370	0.899	0.933	0.829	0.352	0.344	0.887	0.338

**Table 8b**

parameter	Temp	MC	OC	PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>
MC	0.939			
	0.018			
OC	0.177	0.487		
	0.776	0.406		
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	-0.675	-0.466	0.512	
	0.211	0.429	0.377	
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	-0.281	-0.525	-0.945	-0.505
	0.647	0.363	0.015	0.385

**Cell Contents: Pearson correlation**

**P-Value**

**Correlation matrix between some heavy metals and selected physicochemical parameters in wet and dry season**

In order to quantify the relationships between the concentrations of heavy metals and physicochemical parameters, a correlation matrix was performed on the dataset. The correlation matrix represents the relationships between pairs of variables in a dataset. High correlations ( $r = 1$ , or  $r > 1$ ) indicates a perfect relationship or very strong relationship to each other in terms of strength and direction. Whereas P-values ( $P < 0.05$ ) assess the significance of the relationships between the values. A low P-value suggests that the

observed correlation is unlikely to have occurred by chance, or indicating a statistically significant relationship between the variables. Conversely, a high P-value suggests that the observed correlation could indicate a lack of statistical significance (Ibe *et al.*, 2020).

Across the locations during the wet seasons, the correlation analysis between some pairs of the variables between heavy metals and physicochemical parameters are summarized as in Table 9.

High positive correlations ( $r > 0.5$ ) were noticed among pairs of variables in some of the locations such as Ombi I ( $r = 0.913$ , pH/Pb,  $P < 0.05$ ), TudunAmba ( $r$

= 0.817, Ph/Pb;  $r = 0.509$ , Temp/Hg), MararabaAkunza ( $r = 0.812$ , Temp/Hg,  $r = -0.887$ , Cr/Fe), however, insignificant ( $P < 0.05$ ), and significant ( $P > 0.05$ ). The observed strong positive correlations is an indication that an increase in the concentration of one of the pairs of the variable affects the other positive, for example an increase in the concentration of physicochemical parameter obtained in the dumpsites result in increase in the concentration of the heavy metals (Ibe *et al.*, 2020).

On the other hand, high negative correlations were observed in TudunAmba ( $r = -0.953$ ,  $P < 0.05$ , Cr/Fe), Tudun Abu ( $r = -0.953$ ,  $P > 0.05$ , Cr/Fe), Ombi I ( $r = -0.568$ ,  $P > 0.05$ , Cr/Fe). The correlation coefficients measured between these pairs of variables are strong and negative, which showed that an increase in the concentration in one of the pairs will result in decrease in the concentration of the other (Ogundiran and Afolabi, 2008; Olukoya *et al.*, 2019).

The strong significant correlation buttresses the fact that most common heavy metals are major components of refuse dumpsites, therefore indicating a common source (Ganiyu *et al.*, 2016; Lekan *et al.*, 2020).

The degree of linear association between pH, temperature and other parameters measured by correlation coefficients indicate that correlation among these parameters are generally strong ( $r > 0.5$ ) and non-significant. However, some of the parameters are inversely correlated. pH for instance correlated negatively with Pb, and the negative correlation coefficient with this heavy metal showed that higher concentration of heavy metals are mostly found in places with low pH or acidic conditions where they become highly soluble (Nabil *et al.*, 2014).

**Table 9: Correlation matrix between some pairs of heavy metals and selected physicochemical parameters in wet season**

Dumpsites/ Parameters	Correlation Coefficient	P-Value	Comment
<b>Shabu</b>			
pH/Pb	0.090	0.886	Low positive correlation/insignificant
Temp/Hg	- 0.221	0.721	Low positive correlation/insignificant
Cr/Fe	0.133	0.831	Low positive correlation/insignificant
<b>Ombi I</b>			
pH/Pb	0.913	0.030	Very strong positive correlation/significant
Temp/Hg	0.369	0.541	Low positive correlation/insignificant
Cr/Fe	- 0.568	0.318	Strong negative correlation/significant
<b>TudunAmba</b>			
pH/Pb	0.817	0.183	Very strong positive correlation/insignificant
Temp/Hg	0.509	0.491	Strong positive correlation/insignificant
Cr/Fe	- 0.953	0.047	Very strong negative correlation/significant
<b>MararabaAkunza</b>			
pH/Pb	0.125	0.875	Low positive

Temp/Hg	- 0.782	0.218	correlation/insignificant Very strong negative correlation/insignificant
Cr/Fe	0.502	0.498	Strong positive correlation/insignificant
<b>Tudun Abu</b>			
pH/Pb	- 0.835	0.165	Very strong negative correlation/insignificant
Temp/Hg	0.812	0.188	Very strong positive correlation/insignificant
Cr/Fe	0.887	0.113	Very strong positive correlation/insignificant

Perfect = 1, Very Strong = 0.75, Strong = 0.5, Moderate = 0.3, Weak = 0.1 + for positive correlation, - for negative correlation.

P-Value <0.05 Significant, P-Value >0.05 Insignificant

**Table 10: Correlation matrix between some pairs of heavy metals and selected physicochemical parameters in dry season**

Dumpsites/ Parameters	Correlation Coefficient	P-Value	Comment
<b>Shabu</b>			
pH/Pb	0.033	0.958	Low positive correlation/insignificant
Temp/Hg	0.197	0.750	Low positive correlation/insignificant
Cr/Fe	- 0.118	0.850	Low negative correlation/insignificant
<b>Ombi I</b>			
pH/Pb	- 0.054	0.931	Low negative correlation/insignificant
Temp/Hg	- 0.257	0.676	Low negative correlation/insignificant
Cr/Fe	0.753	0.142	Very strong positive correlation/insignificant
<b>TudunAmba</b>			
pH/Pb	- 0.998	0.002	Very strong negative correlation/significant
Temp/Hg	- 0.968	0.062	Very strong negative correlation/insignificant
Cr/Fe	0.818	0.182	Very strong positive correlation/insignificant
<b>MararabaAkunza</b>			
pH/Pb	- 0.538	0.462	Strong negative correlation/insignificant
Temp/Hg	- 0.556	0.444	Strong negative correlation/insignificant
Cr/Fe	- 0.173	0.827	Low negative correlation/insignificant
<b>Tudun Abu</b>			
pH/Pb	- 0.898	0.102	Very strong negative correlation/insignificant
Temp/Hg	- 0.747	0.253	Very strong negative correlation/insignificant
Cr/Fe	0.866	0.134	Very strong positive correlation/insignificant

The correlation analysis of the data obtained for some heavy metals and physicochemical parameters in dry season between some pairs of variables are presented in Table 10.

The degree of association between pH, Temperature against Pb, Hg for example at different locations for Dry Season, indicate strong negative correlation in TudunAmba ( $r = -0.998$ ,  $P < 0.05$ , for pH/Pb;  $r = -0.968$ ,  $P > 0.05$  for Temp/Hg), MararabaAkunza ( $r = -0.538$ ,  $P > 0.05$  for pH/Pb;  $r = -0.556$ ,  $P > 0.05$  for Temp/Hg), Tudun Abu ( $r = -0.898$ ,  $P > 0.05$ , for pH/Pb;  $r = -0.747$ ,  $P > 0.05$  for Temp/Hg). The degree of association could be attributed to the influence of high temperature in dry season over other parameters (Nabil *et al.*, 2014). On the other hand, the degree of the effect of pH, temperature on some other parameters is strong

positive and insignificant. This indicates that increase in pH, Temperature will only yield insignificant increase with the other parameters.

However, the pairs of Cr/Fe in Tudun Abu, TudunAmba, Ombi I ( $r = 0.866$ ,  $P > 0.05$ ;  $r = 0.818$ ,  $P > 0.05$ ;  $r = 0.753$ ,  $P > 0.05$ ) correlated positively.

The results of pair of Cr/Fe indicate that parameters within the locations are strong, and an increase in concentration of one of the variable will result in increase in the other (Ruth *et al.*, 2021).

**Table 11a: Principal component analysis in relation to level of contributions of composite parameters to the heavy metal concentrations in Shabu wet and dry seasons**

**Results for Shabu wet season (Eigen analysis of the correlation matrix)**

Parameter	pH	Temp.	MC	OC	OM	COD	BOD	DO	PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>
Eigen value	4.7481	2.6811	2.2663	1.3046	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	-0.0000	-0.0000	-0.0000	-0.0000
Proportion	0.432	0.244	0.206	0.119	0.000	0.000	0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000
Cumulative	0.432	0.675	0.881	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

**Table 11b**

Variable	PC1	PC2	PC3	PC4	PC5	PC6	PC7	PC8	PC9	PC10	PC11
pH	-0.173	-0.057	0.593	0.199	-0.285	0.214	0.059	-0.334	0.062	0.514	0.256
Temp	0.028	0.419	0.459	-0.189	-0.013	0.069	0.535	-0.069	0.070	-0.362	-0.381
MC	-0.282	0.356	0.315	0.210	0.062	0.014	-0.612	0.406	0.278	-0.102	-0.137
OC	0.424	0.175	0.140	0.124	0.035	0.089	-0.431	-0.376	-0.600	-0.071	-0.233
OM	0.411	0.066	0.273	0.120	-0.017	-0.059	0.185	0.605	-0.309	-0.035	0.488
COD	-0.355	0.177	-0.125	0.464	0.243	-0.283	0.298	0.133	-0.387	0.361	-0.292
BOD	0.206	0.515	-0.197	-0.031	-0.472	-0.574	-0.038	-0.149	0.185	0.170	0.118
DO	0.099	0.312	-0.400	0.503	-0.204	0.613	0.147	-0.018	0.136	-0.122	0.087
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	-0.435	-0.066	0.055	0.251	-0.129	-0.248	-0.002	-0.264	-0.219	-0.624	0.393
Cl <sup>-</sup>	0.174	-0.501	0.096	0.352	-0.538	-0.157	0.025	0.187	0.078	-0.140	-0.459
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	0.378	-0.099	0.131	0.442	0.533	-0.257	0.062	-0.260	0.450	-0.071	0.078

**Table 12a: Results for Shabu dry season (Eigen analysis of the correlation matrix)**

Parameter	pH	Temp.	MC	OC	OM	COD	BOD	DO	PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>
Eigenvalue	6.1784	3.2407	1.5809	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	-0.0000	-0.0000	-0.0000
Proportion	0.562	0.295	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000
Cumulative	0.562	0.856	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

**Table 12b**

Variable	PC1	PC2	PC3	PC4	PC5	PC6	PC7	PC8	PC9	PC10	PC11
pH	-0.192	-0.292	0.561	-0.160	-0.058	0.100	0.225	-0.238	0.606	0.189	-0.124
Temp	0.157	0.493	-0.192	-0.217	-0.239	-0.065	-0.080	-0.751	0.127	0.016	0.002
MC	0.268	0.412	-0.067	0.521	-0.064	0.023	0.324	0.237	0.296	0.479	0.003
OC	0.392	-0.118	0.049	-0.019	-0.408	0.702	0.048	0.028	-0.180	-0.111	-0.349
OM	0.391	-0.128	0.016	-0.217	-0.490	-0.230	-0.197	0.306	0.319	-0.144	0.485
COD	0.383	-0.149	0.119	0.035	-0.007	-0.502	0.601	-0.116	-0.188	-0.315	-0.235
BOD	-0.277	-0.291	-0.397	0.493	-0.351	-0.163	-0.166	-0.102	0.295	-0.243	-0.320
DO	-0.265	-0.088	-0.585	-0.409	-0.072	0.179	0.572	0.123	0.119	0.047	0.130
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	0.132	-0.521	-0.095	0.290	-0.019	0.082	0.070	-0.419	-0.265	0.360	0.482
Cl <sup>-</sup>	-0.321	0.277	0.271	0.322	-0.158	0.238	0.272	-0.067	-0.060	-0.520	0.458
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	-0.381	0.096	0.212	-0.096	-0.612	-0.256	0.051	0.103	-0.430	0.375	-0.107

### Principal component analysis of heavy metal concentrations and physicochemical parameters in wet and dry seasons

The principal component analysis (PCA) was performed to transform the original variables into principal components, and to calculate the Eigen values, proportion of variance, and cumulative variance.

With reference to Shabu, in wet season, the variances in the variables were accounted for by PC1, PC2, PC3 and PC4 with Eigen values of 4.75, 2.68, 2.27 and 1.31, respectively. PC1, PC2, PC3 and PC4 accounted for 43.2, 24.4, 20.6 and 11.9% of the variance, respectively.

PC1 had a significant positive association with OC, OM and significant negative association with  $PO_4^{2-}$ . PC2 recorded significant positive association with BOD and significant negative association with  $Cl^-$ . Similarly, PC3 recorded a significant positive association with pH and significant negative association DO.

With reference to Shabu in dry season, the variances in the variables were accounted for, by PC1, PC2 and PC3 with Eigen values of 6.18, 3.24 and 1.58, respectively. PC1, PC2 and PC3 accounted for 56.2, 29.5 and 14.4% of the variance, respectively.

PC1 had a large positive association with OC, OM and COD and large negative association with  $Cl^-$  and  $SO_4^{2-}$ . PC2 recorded large positive association with Temp, MC, but negative association with  $PO_4^{2-}$ . Similarly, PC3 recorded a significant positive association with pH and significant negative association with DO.

In the central geographical location of Ombi I, wet season, the variance in the variables were accounted for by PC1, PC2 and PC3 with Eigen values of 4.55, 3.58 and 2.87, respectively. PC1, PC2 and PC3 account for 41.4, 32.6 and 26.1% of the variance, respectively.

PC1 had a significant positive association with OC, OM, COD and insignificant negative association with  $SO_4^{2-}$ . PC2 recorded significant positive association with Temp, BOD and significant negative association with  $PO_4^{2-}$ . The pattern is similar across the geographical locations of the Local Government Area.

The principal components measure the direct and inverse relationship between these parameters and heavy metal availability and abundance in the soil (Adamu, and Ahmad, 2012; Amadi and Nwankwoala, 2013; Olukoya *et al.*, 2019).

The association of the variables with principal components account for their contributions to heavy metal concentrations in the soil and the direction of the association (negative/positive). Narrowing down to the variables, the ones with higher coefficients account for most part of the variance and their contributions to heavy metal concentrations (Iwegbue *et al.*, 2007; Anake *et al.*, 2009; Ruben *et al.*, 2015; Ibe *et al.*, 2020; Johnbosco and Chukwuma, 2020; Carol and Michael, 2021; Daniel *et al.*, 2022).

### Development of a general linear model to quantify the relationships between the concentration of heavy metals and the different composite parameters in refuse dumpsites

Using the Multiple linear regression analysis (MLR) model, a regression equation was developed to quantify the relationship between the concentration of heavy metals and the composite parameters to account for the variation of the independent variables to the dependent variable (Adamu and Ahmad, 2012; Roseline *et al.*, 2020; Smita *et al.*, 2020). The regression model was developed in line with the following prediction equation:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_n X_n + \varepsilon$$

Y = dependent variable

$X_1, X_2$  = independent variables

$\beta_0$  = intercept

$\beta_1, \beta_2$  = regression parameters

$\varepsilon$  = error

Hence from the correlation or covariance coefficients generated from the data set, the following regression models were obtained for each of the metal.

#### Regression Equation for Pb

$$Pb = -1.73 + 0.030 \text{ pH} - 0.0155 \text{ Temp} + 0.306 \text{ MC} + 0.93 \text{ OC} - 0.0126 \text{ PO}_4^{2-} + 0.0296 \text{ SO}_4^{2-}$$

#### Regression equation for Hg

$$Hg = 1.201 + 0.0401 \text{ pH} - 0.01463 \text{ Temp} + 0.0603 \text{ MC} - 0.495 \text{ OC} - 0.00086 \text{ PO}_4^{2-} - 0.00110 \text{ SO}_4^{2-}$$

#### Regression equation for As

$$As = 6.43 + 0.201 \text{ pH} - 0.0680 \text{ Temp} + 0.170 \text{ MC} - 2.95 \text{ OC} - 0.0523 \text{ PO}_4^{2-} + 0.0468 \text{ SO}_4^{2-}$$

#### Regression equation for Cr

$$Cr = 3.20 - 0.029 \text{ pH} - 0.142 \text{ Temp} - 0.523 \text{ MC} + 1.68 \text{ OC} + 0.1082 \text{ PO}_4^{2-} + 0.0253 \text{ SO}_4^{2-}$$

#### Regression equation for Fe

$$Fe = 1.078 - 0.0288 \text{ pH} + 0.0263 \text{ Temp} + 0.0169 \text{ MC} - 0.644 \text{ OC} + 0.00489 \text{ PO}_4^{2-} - 0.00340 \text{ SO}_4^{2-}$$

#### Regression equation for Zn

$$Zn = -2.09 + 0.073 \text{ pH} + 0.012 \text{ Temp} + 0.211 \text{ MC} + 2.01 \text{ OC} + 0.0546 \text{ PO}_4^{2-} + 0.0411 \text{ SO}_4^{2-}$$

#### Regression equation for Cu

$$Cu = 1.14 + 0.218 \text{ pH} - 0.276 \text{ Temp} + 0.653 \text{ MC} + 3.58 \text{ OC} - 0.0323 \text{ PO}_4^{2-} + 0.0214 \text{ SO}_4^{2-}$$

#### Regression equation for Mn

$$Mn = -11.78 + 1.578 \text{ pH} - 0.1070 \text{ Temp} + 0.221 \text{ MC} + 3.90 \text{ OC} - 0.0517 \text{ PO}_4^{2-} - 0.0504 \text{ SO}_4^{2-}$$

#### Regression equation for Ni

$$Ni = -0.39 + 0.1267 \text{ pH} - 0.0025 \text{ Temp} - 0.0604 \text{ MC} - 0.017 \text{ OC} + 0.01048 \text{ PO}_4^{2-} - 0.00231 \text{ SO}_4^{2-}$$

#### Regression equation for B

$$B = -0.99 + 0.1431 \text{ pH} - 0.0012 \text{ Temp} - 0.1031 \text{ MC} + 0.405 \text{ OC} - 0.00869 \text{ PO}_4^{2-} - 0.00618 \text{ SO}_4^{2-}$$

## Summary

The study evaluated the concentrations of ten (10) heavy metals across twenty (20) selected refuse dumpsites in Lafia Local Government Area. Fourteen (14) physicochemical parameters of the soil samples from the refuse dumpsites were also investigated in the wet and dry seasons. Using Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer and Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) standard methods. The results showed that during the wet season, the concentration of heavy metal ranged from Hg (0.027-3.270), Cr (0.062-1.075), and Mn (0.074-1.656) mg/kg were above the maximum permissible limits of (0.04), (0.2), (0.1) mg/kg respectively for each metal by World Health Organisation (WHO), and (0.0005 mg/kg) of National Environmental Standards Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), while that of Pb, As, Fe, Zn, Cu and Ni were below the tolerable limits. In the dry season, the levels of concentrations of Hg (0.003-2.160), Cr (0.067-4.533), and Mn (0.084-5.697) mg/kg across the locations were also found to be above the tolerable limits. The levels of nitrates in wet season (7.14 – 2731.15 mg/L), phosphates (0.12 – 14.85 mg/L) and organic matter (2.19 – 3.22% w/w), and dry season, nitrates (176.14 – 3797.89 mg/L), phosphates (0.17 mg/L-14.85 mg/L) and organic matter (1.64 – 3.23% w/w), were above WHO standards of 30, 4.5 mg/L and 3% w/w respectively, while other results obtained for physicochemical parameters during the wet and dry season were low and within permissible limit. The results obtained during the dry season were generally higher when compared to that of the rainy season except for moisture content. Statistical test at 0.05 probability level ( $p < 0.05$ ) was used to determine the degree of association between the pairs of variables. The results between selected physicochemical parameters and some heavy metals are strong positively ( $r > 0.5$ ) and non-significant, while some are negative. The principal component analysis (PCA) was performed to transform the original variables into principal components, and to calculate the Eigen values, proportion of variance, and cumulative variance. The principal components measure the direct and inverse relationship between these parameters and heavy metal availability and abundance in the soil. Based on the different variables obtained at the study areas, a multiple linear regression analysis was determined from which a general linear model was formulated to predict an outcome variable from predictive variable.

## Conclusion and Recommendation

The research assessed chemometrically, the concentration of heavy metals and physicochemical parameters from selected soil samples in refuse-dumpsites in Lafia Local Government Area. Concentrations of heavy metals in soil samples from selected waste dumpsites were determined and the results indicated high concentrations of Hg, Cr and Mn

above the threshold limit of WHO, and NESREA. In the case of physicochemical parameters, the concentrations of Nitrates, Phosphates and Organic Matter were also above tolerable standards. The correlation coefficient between the heavy metal concentration and physicochemical parameters in the wet and dry seasons were determined, as well as the level of contributions of composite parameters to the heavy metal concentrations using Principal Component Analysis (PCA). A general multilinear model was developed using the transformed variables. Based on the findings, the study recommends:

- 1) Appropriate government agencies should as a matter urgency integrate the regular monitoring of waste disposal into the state developmental plan and framework in order to prevent excessive build-up of these metals in humans through the food chain, especially Hg, Cr and Mn.
- 2) Adequate measures should be put in place to create awareness on the ill effect arising from uncontrolled disposal of wastes to prevent harm to the environment and jeopardising our health.
- 3) There should improvement on the dearth of data and general information on environmental sanitation at all levels of government to facilitate planning, monitoring and evaluation.
- 4) Specific investigation and analysis will be needed to determine the exact sources and path ways of metal contamination in a particular refuse dumpsite since reasons for elevated metal concentration in dumpsite soils can vary, depending on the location, historical activities, waste management practices, and the types of materials discarded.

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