



Radiation levels of dumpsites within Imo State University, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

With increasing population and human activities dumpsites experience diverse sources of waste with potential radiation hazards. Ionizing radiations have often been overlooked amongst researchers in third world countries and so information in this regards is lacking. In this study nine dumpsites within Imo State University (IMSU) were assessed for radiation levels using Geiger Muller counter Tube Mullard type ZP 1481 with assisted scalar and stop watch. After calibration the instrument was placed one meter above ground level and count rates recorded at 10 minutes interval for each location on one dumpsite in the morning afternoon and evening for seven days. Results reveal high dose equivalents in some morning periods than the afternoon and evening. ETF2 had highest value of 0.69 ± 0.08 mSv \cdot yr⁻¹ while Extension gate had lowest value of 0.56 ± 0.01 mSv \cdot yr⁻¹. Compared to National Council for Radiation Protection maximum permissible level these values are only % respectively. In conclusion ionizing radiations levels at dumpsites studied in Imo State University are low and may not pose a threat to persons within the university

Keywords: Environmental monitoring, Ionizing, Public health, waste

1. INTRODUCTION

Radiation, obtained during radioactivity is the energy that comes from a source and travels through some materials and through space. This energy is in form of high speed

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