



# **Evaluation of Heavy Metals and Contamination Status of Soil around Abandoned and Active Nigerian Dumpsites**

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## **Authors' contributions**

*This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Authors OOA and OSE designed the study. Author OOA performed the statistical analysis and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author OSE produced the study area map and review the drafted manuscript. Authors OOA and OSE managed the analyses of the study. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Aim:** The study evaluated the heavy metals and contamination status of soil around active and abandoned waste dumpsites in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Nigeria.

**Methodology:** Five soil samples were collected at the topsoil (0-15cm depth) in a regular distance of 20m, 40m, 60m, 80m and 100m from the center of the dumpsites and control plot. The soil samples were analysed for heavy metals (Cu, Cr, Cd, Fe, Pb and Zn), pH and total Organic C (TOC) using standard laboratory analyses and contamination indices to determine the soil contamination status. Descriptive statistics involving mean and standard deviation were used for the data analysis.

**Results:** The mean concentrations of Cu, Cr, Cd, Fe, Pb and Zn in active dumpsite was 3.2616mg/kg, 0.3983 mg/kg, 0.2027 mg/kg, 6.5785 mg/kg, 2.6991mg/kg and 12.4111mg/kg respectively while that of the abandoned dumpsite are 1.3913mg/kg, 0.3693mg/kg, 0.0882mg/kg, 3.6235mg/kg, 0.4158mg/kg and 4.0140mg/kg respectively. Hence, the soil samples in both

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dumpsites exceeded the allowable limit of World Health Organisation (WHO). The order of heavy metal concentrations in the dumpsites was Zn>Fe>Cu>Pb>Cr>Cd. The contamination factor of the heavy metals follows order: Pb > Cu > Cr > Zn > Fe for both dumpsites. The degree of contamination ranged from (1612.51 to 2286.83 for active dumpsite and 26.14 to 641.46 for abandoned dumpsite) indicating very high degree of contamination. Modified degree of contamination ranged from 46.09 to 381.14 for active dumpsite indicating “ultra-high degree of contamination” and 4.36 to 106.91 for abandoned dumpsite indicating high degree of contamination to ultra-high degree of contamination. Pollution Load Index ranged from (5.08 to 8.12 for active and 1.63 to 4.16 for abandoned dumpsite) indicating polluted soil with various heavy metals.

**Conclusion:** the concentration of heavy metals combined with the contamination indices revealed that the soils around the dumpsites are contaminated/polluted; hence, pose ecological and health-related risk.

**Keywords:** *Dumpsite; heavy metals; contamination factor; pollution load index; modified degree of contamination; soil pollution.*

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**ABBREVIATIONS**

<i>Pb</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>PLI</i>	<i>Pollution Load Index</i>
<i>Cu</i>	<i>Copper</i>	<i>MDC</i>	<i>Modified Degree of Contamination</i>
<i>Cr</i>	<i>Cromium</i>	<i>WHO</i>	<i>World Health Organization</i>
<i>Zn</i>	<i>Zinc</i>	<i>USEPA</i>	<i>US Environmental Protection Agency</i>
<i>Fe</i>	<i>Iron</i>	<i>FEPA</i>	<i>Federal Environmental Protection Agency</i>
<i>CF</i>	<i>Contamination Factor</i>	<i>CCME</i>	<i>Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment</i>
<i>DCI</i>	<i>Degree of Contamination Index</i>		

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

Many urban and industrial cities of developing countries still using landfills system to accommodate their waste and due to the various socio-economic activities, wastes are generated in tons. Landfills system is most adopted due to its capacity to accommodate great amount of waste over a long period of time using simple disposal method such as burning and/or decomposition. Notwithstanding these benefits, landfills are regarded as major reservoir of heavy metals and organic compounds in the environment [1,2,3]. Hence, inefficient management of landfills waste has led to serious and several environmental and human impact, which has influence on the long term achievement of sustainable development [4].

Port Harcourt house many multinational companies and experiencing rapid urbanization and industrialization due to continuous influx of people from other parts of country and beyond. These have resulted in rapid impact on the environmental condition due to management of waste generated in the city. Many of the waste generated in the city are gathered to landfill sites

located close to residential area and improperly disposed, leading to environmental degradation, poor soil quality and challenge on human health [5,6]. Soil at their natural state contain modest amount of heavy metals which are needed by plant for their wellbeing [7]. Heavy metals such as Cadmium (Cd), Chromium (Cr), Copper (Cu), Lead (Pb), Iron (Fe) and Zinc (Zn) have been found in soil around landfill environment [8,9,10].

There have been several accomplished studies ascertaining the heavy metals contamination in Nigerian dumpsites. Oluwatuyi, *et al.*, [11] reported Zn, Fe, Mn and Ni concentrations to have exceeded the allowable limit of FEPA in their studied dumpsite while the sequence of concentration indicated that Fe > Mn > Zn > Ni > Cr. Bongoua-Devisme, *et al* [1] reported that the concentrations of Cr, Pb, Cd, Zn and Ni in the top layer soil around agricultural and industrial areas, and underground soil around dumpsite exceeded the allowable limit of CCME. Comparative assessment of heavy metals of a functioning and abandoned waste dumpsites conducted by Temiloluwa *et al.*, [12] indicated that both dumpsites concentrations exceeded the WHO allowable limit; hence, no significant difference in

the concentrations. Ideriah *et al*, [7] asserted that solid waste affect heavy metals concentration in soil and plant while attribute such as topography of the dumpsite, composition of waste and necessarily not the age of the dumpsite influence the concentration. Mekonnen, *et al.*, [13] reported Cd, Zn, Pb and Cu in the soil had concentration higher than FEPA and USEPA standards. However, higher concentration of Pb, Cd, Mn, Ni and Cu was found at leachate sample of the study. The study of Makuleke and Ngole-Jeme [3] indicated higher concentration of heavy metal in the soil and plant around closed landfill area than the control site. The order of concentration of the heavy metal as indicated by the; Fe > Zn > Cu > Cr > Ni > Cd and posited that even though the landfill has been closed for more than 20 years. Dumpsite contamination assessment conducted by Afolagboye *et al.*, [14] showed ecological risk index ranged of 4.37–505.55 which is an indication of low to considerable risk for the dumpsite. Odukoya [15] observed potential ecological risk (RI) for the abandoned and the active dumpsites ranged between 43.86 to 1567.2 and 133.7 to 732.4 which imply low to very-high risk and very-high risk respectively while contamination degrees ranged between low and very high degree of contamination for both dumpsites. Bello *et al.*, [16] observed high level of contamination of heavy metals in dumpsite where the pollution load index averaged 2.113 and the degree of contamination index of 30.624. Demie [17] noted that the soils in their study were moderately contaminated by Cr and very highly contaminated by Pb, Ni, Cd and Co while the degree of contamination deduced highly contaminated soil.

The soil around the abandoned dumpsite has been subjected to various anthropogenic activities such as residential building and agricultural activities but how safe is the soil of the area for such activities. The study assessed the heavy metals load and contamination status of active and abandoned dumpsites soils in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State using various contamination indices.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 Study Area

The dumpsites are located within the Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State, a maritime state in the southern geopolitical zone of Nigeria. It is located between latitudes 4°30'0"N and 5°30'0"N and longitude 6°30'0"E

and 7°30'0"E. The active site dumpsite is located along the Eagle Cement Factory off the Rumuolumeni road. The dumpsite is on the coordinate 4° 48'23.4"N and 6° 56'35.6" E. It's about 200m long and 150m wide with residential buildings and mechanic workshop scantily situated around the dumpsite. It is currently being used by the Rivers State Environmental Sanitation Authority as a dumpsite. The abandoned dumpsite is situated along Apirikom road off Rumuepirikom/Iwofe road at Rumuepirikom in Port Harcourt city. It is about 150m long and 100m wide located on the coordinate 4°49'37.1"N and 6°58'26.0"E. Although, the larger part of the dumpsite have been turned into residential area. It is an old refuse dump that has been abandoned for over 10 years. At the time of sampling, refuse were still there lightly but the placed was predominantly used by the scavengers as their abode and on-loading and off-loading point. The control site is a semi-forest land along the Rumuolumeni road after the Iwofe Police Station. The site is located on coordinate 4°48'39.9"N and 6°56'32.3"E. The location is about 1000m away from both dumpsites.

### 2.2 Collection of Soil Samples

With the aid of auger, the soils sample were collected within the depth of 0-15cm at a point distance of 20cm, 60m, 80m and 100m after a central point was identified at the dumpsites (Table 1 and Fig. 1). During the soil sample collection for each point, five soil samples were collected within the radius of the point and the soils were mixed together to form the composite soil sample for the point. The collected samples were bagged with polythene materials and air-dried afterwards. The dried soils were crumbled into fine particles and sieved through Aluminium sieve of 2mm mesh size and taking to laboratory for further soil analysis.

### 2.3 Determination of Soil Properties

Soil pH was analysed through CaCl<sub>2</sub> solutions using a Mettler Toledo Seven Easy pH Meter. Total Organic Carbon was analysed using the Walkley-Black Titrimetric Method. Digestion of soil samples was carried out through aqua-regia while the heavy metals of the digested soil were analysed using Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (Perkin-Elmer Aanalyst 200). The analyses were performed in the agronomy laboratory of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

**2.4 Contamination Assessment of Heavy Metals**

**2.4.1 Contamination Factor (CF)**

CF was utilized to estimate the extent of soil contamination with heavy metals. CF is express as;

$$CF = C_n / B_n \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

Where C<sub>n</sub>= Concentration of heavy metals in soil samples while B<sub>n</sub>= Background value of heavy metals in natural state. The heavy metals are classified based on the CF according to Hakanson (1980) as shown in Table 1.

**2.4.2 Pollution Load Index (PLI)**

PLI is suitable for the comparison of extent pollution among sampled soils from different locations and at separate times. The PLI is express as;

$$PLI = \sqrt[n]{CF_1 * CF_2 * CF_3 * \dots\dots\dots CF_n} \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

Where PLI= Pollution Load Index, CF = Contamination factor, and n= number of elements. The PLI >1 indicates polluted, while PLI<1 indicates no pollution

**2.4.3 Degree of Contamination Index (DCI)**

DCI was utilized to estimate the sum of CF of the studied metals. DC is express as;

$$DCI = \sum_{i=1}^n CF \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

The DC of the heavy metals were classified according to Hakanson [18] in Table 2.

**2.4.4 Modified degree of contamination (MDC)**

As the name implies, it is the modification of DCI equation which is express as;

$$MDC = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n CF}{n} \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

Where n= Number of heavy metals. MDC is classified according to Abraham and Parker [19] in Table 3.

**Table 1. Classification contamination factor**

Contamination Factor	Classification
CF<1	Low
1≤CF<3	Moderate
3≤CF<6	Considerable
CF≥6	Very high

Source: Hakanson [18]

**Table 2. Classification contamination factor**

Degree of Contamination	Classification
DC<1	Low
1≤DC<3	Moderate
3≤DC<6	Considerable
DC≥6	Very high

Source: Hakanson [18]

**Table 3. Classification contamination factor**

Modified degree of contamination (MDC)	Classification
MDC<1	Nil to Very Low Degree of Contamination
1.5 ≤ MDC < 2A	Low Degree of Contamination
2 ≤ MDC < 4	Moderate Degree of Contamination
4 ≤ MDC < 8	High Degree of Contamination
8 ≤ MDC < 16	Very High Degree of Contamination
16 ≤ MDC < 32	Extremely High Degree of Contamination
MDC ≥ 32	Ultra-High Degree of Contamination

Source: Abraham and Parker [19] Afolagboye, et al., [14]

**Table 4. Location of Sample points for Active dumpsite, abandoned dumpsite and Control**

Plots	Sampling Distance (m)	Latitude	Longitude
Abandoned Dumpsite	20	4 <sup>0</sup> 49'38.0"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 58'26.5"E
	40	4 <sup>0</sup> 49'38.2"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 58'27.4"E
	60	4 <sup>0</sup> 49'38.6"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 58'28.7"E
	80	4 <sup>0</sup> 49'39.5"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 58'29.1"E
	100	4 <sup>0</sup> 49'38.8"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 58'30.0"E
Active Dumpsite	20	4 <sup>0</sup> 48'20.6"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 56'28.0"E
	40	4 <sup>0</sup> 48'20.4"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 56'27.0"E
	60	4 <sup>0</sup> 48'20.9"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 56'26.6"E
	80	4 <sup>0</sup> 48'20.3"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 56'25.8"E
	100	4 <sup>0</sup> 48'20.4"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 56'25.1"E
	Sample Points	Latitude	Longitude
	A	4 <sup>0</sup> 48'35.8"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 56'28.4"E
	B	4 <sup>0</sup> 48'23.6"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 56'21.5"E
	C	4 <sup>0</sup> 48'27.5"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 56'21.5"E
	D	4 <sup>0</sup> 48'36.0"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 56'27.4"E
	E	4 <sup>0</sup> 48'34.7"N	6 <sup>0</sup> 56'29.9"E



**Fig. 1. A Section of Port Harcourt Metropolis showing the Locations of the Dumpsites**

## 2.5 Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics was used to describe the mean value of the soil parameters in the active dumpsite, abandoned dumpsite and control plot. Tables and graphs were used for the presentation of results.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Soil pH and Total Organic Carbon

From Table 5 and Figure 2, the soils were observed to be slightly acidic with a pH value

ranged from 6.22 to 6.59 at the abandoned dumpsite with a mean pH value of 6.44 while the pH value for the active dumpsite is observed to be moderately acidic with ranged from 5.57 to 5.92 with a mean pH value of 5.73. The pH of the control site ranged from 4.45 to 5.67 with a mean pH value of 4.82. The outcome indicated that the soils were acidic in nature. Similar pH range value was reported by Iwegbue *et al.*, [20]. The pH reported by Abdalla *et al.*, [21] from dumpsite indicated 7.85-8.60 which signify alkaline soil. TOC (Table 5 and Figure 3) of the active site ranged from 15.08mg/kg to 15.76mg/kg with a mean value of 15.47mg/kg. Abandoned site TOC

ranged from 10.85mg/kg to 11.96mg/kg with a mean value of 11.56mg/kg while the control site showed the lowest TOC ranged from 2.07mg/kg to 2.76mg/kg with mean value of 2.57mg/kg. TOC revealed the extent of decomposition of organic material and as shown that the active dumpsite has high TOC.

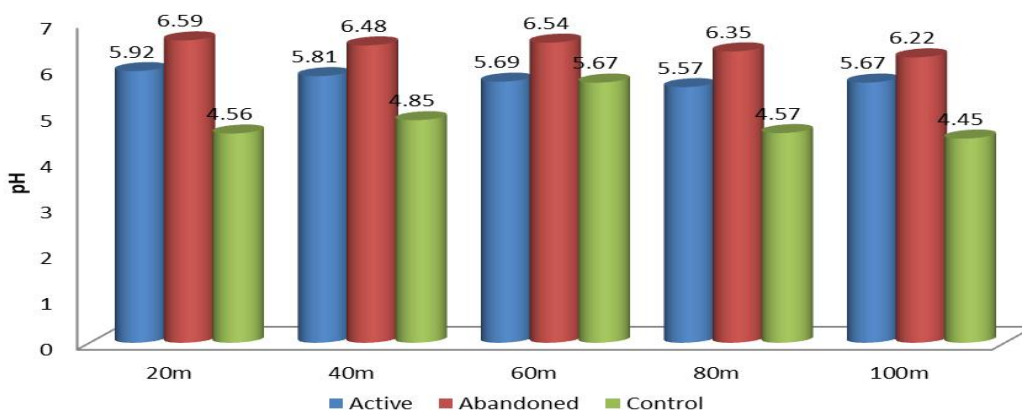
### 3. 2 Heavy Metal Concentrations

Six heavy metals elements including Cd, Cr, Cu, Fe, Pb and Zn in soil of active dumpsite, abandoned dumpsites and control were analysed in this study and the results are presented in Table 6.

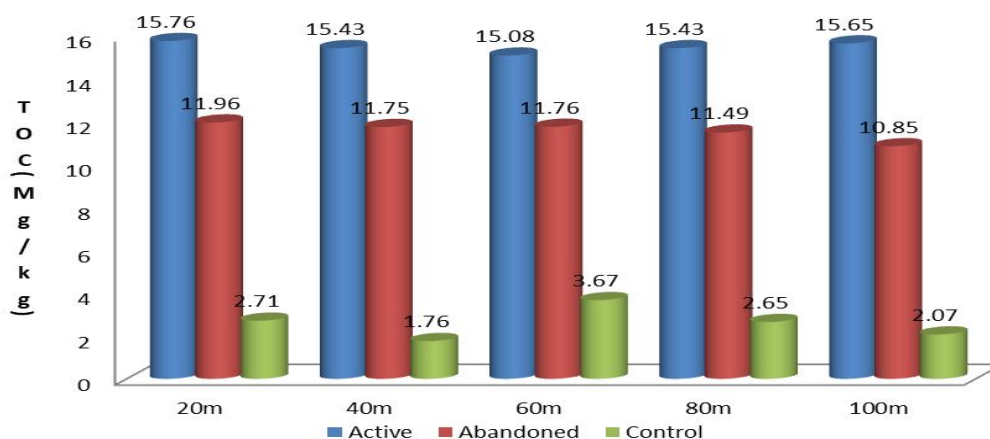
**Table 5. Mean values and standard deviations of pH and TOC in the dumpsites and control**

Plots	Soil Properties	Sampling Distance (m)					Mean	SD
		20	40	60	80	100		
Active Dumpsite	pH	5.92	5.81	5.69	5.57	5.67	5.73	0.13
	TOC(mg/kg)	15.76	15.43	15.08	15.43	15.65	15.47	0.26
Abandoned Dumpsite	pH	6.59	6.48	6.54	6.35	6.22	6.44	0.15
	TOC(mg/kg)	11.96	11.75	11.76	11.49	10.85	11.56	0.43
Control	pH	4.56	4.85	5.67	4.57	4.45	4.82	0.50
	TOC(mg/kg)	2.71	1.76	3.67	2.65	2.07	2.57	0.73

SD: Standard Deviation



**Fig. 2. pH of the Active Dumpsite and Abandoned Dumpsite**

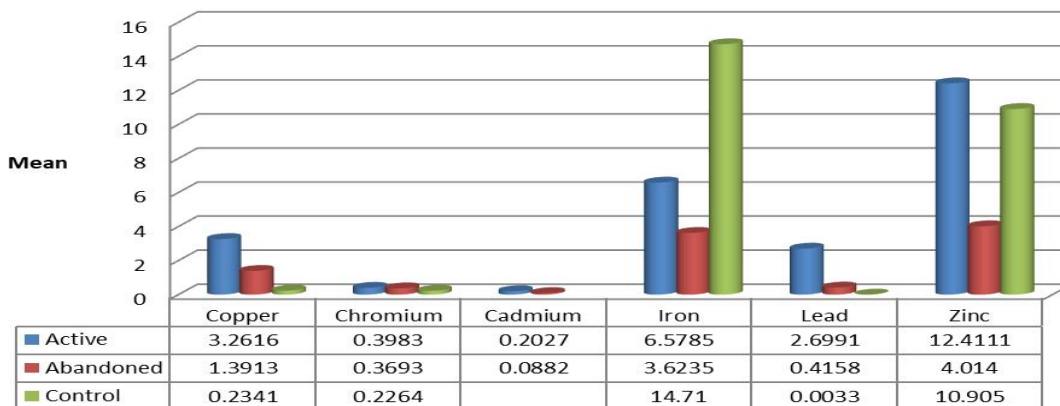


**Fig. 3. TOC of the Active Dumpsites and Abandoned Dumpsites**

**Table 6. Heavy metal concentrations in the soil under the dumpsites and control site**

Plots	Soil Properties (mg/kg)	Sampling Distance (m)					Mean	SD
		20	40	60	80	100		
Active Dumpsite	Cu	3.4712	3.3617	3.3571	3.1109	3.0071	3.2616	0.19
	Cr	0.4011	0.3982	0.4012	0.4119	0.3789	0.3983	0.02
	Cd	0.2807	0.0175	0.3415	ND	0.1712	0.2027	0.15
	Fe	6.8121	5.9771	6.9811	6.9453	6.1771	6.5785	0.47
	Pb	2.7241	2.7018	2.6975	2.6921	2.6801	2.6991	0.02
	Zn	12.3412	12.5671	12.7711	12.2011	12.1748	12.4111	0.25
Abandoned Dumpsite	Cu	1.7482	1.0298	1.9009	1.2956	0.9822	1.3913	0.42
	Cr	0.5764	0.3451	0.3125	0.3012	0.3112	0.3693	0.12
	Cd	0.0545	0.0310	0.008	ND	ND	0.0882	0.05
	Fe	3.4581	3.4134	3.6717	3.7567	3.8177	3.6235	0.18
	Pb	0.7578	0.5211	0.4908	0.1891	0.1201	0.4158	0.26
	Zn	4.7902	4.4621	4.0369	3.0377	3.7429	4.0140	0.68
Sampling Points								
		A	B	C	D	E	Mean	SD
Control	Cu	0.2620	0.2617	0.1495	0.2157	0.2820	0.2341	0.05
	Cr	0.2240	0.1348	0.2346	0.2567	0.2820	0.2264	0.05
	Cd	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		
	Fe	14.321	14.547	15.765	14.394	14.523	14.71	0.6
	Pb	0.0012	0.0014	0.0017	0.0104	0.0016	0.0033	0.004
	Zn	10.070	10.617	11.198	10.273	12.370	10.905	0.85

Key: Cu: Copper, Cr: Chromium, Cd: Cadmium, Fe: Iron, Pb: Lead, Zn: Zinc, ND: Not Detectable and SD: Standard Deviation



**Fig. 4. Mean concentration of heavy metals of the Active Dumpsites, Abandoned Dumpsites and Control Site**

**Table 7. Mean concentration of heavy metals from all site against the permissible limit**

Location	Heavy Metals (mg/kg)					
	Cu	Cr	Cd	Fe	Pb	Zn
Active Dumpsite	3.2616	0.3983	0.2027	6.5785	2.6991	12.4111
Abandoned Dumpsite	1.3913	0.3693	0.0882	3.6235	0.4158	4.0140
Control Site	0.2341	0.2264	ND	14.523	0.0033	10.905
Allowable Limit (WHO)	2.0	0.05	0.003	0.005	0.01	3.0

The concentration of Pb of the active site ranged from 2.6801 to 2.7241 mg/kg (Table 6 and Fig. 3), with an average value of 2.6991 mg/kg, while that of the abandoned site ranged from 0.1201 to 0.7578 mg/kg (Table 6), with an average value of 0.4158 mg/kg were all greater than that of the control (0.0033 mg/kg). The level of Pb reported in the study is lower than the value reported by Awokunmi *et al.* [22] for dumpsite and Eludoyin and Ogbe [23] for automobile workshop. Human are exposed to Pb through inhalation, ingestion and skin absorption while the metal is regarded dangerous with no biological function and with adverse impact on children [24,22]. The Pb values reported therein exceeded the allowable limit set by WHO for active and abandoned dumpsites while the control site is within the permissible limit (Table 7).

The concentration of Fe of the abandoned site ranged from 3.4134 to 3.8177 mg/kg, with an average value of 3.6235 mg/Kg, while that of the active site ranged from 6.1771 to 6.9811 mg/kg, with an average value of 6.5785 mg/kg were all less than that of the control (14.71 mg/Kg). The reported values of Fe for this study was lower when compare with that reported by Okeyode & Rufai, [25] from different dumpsites and Nwajei and Iwegbue [26] for automobile body-parts markets. Iwegbue *et al.*, [20] reported Fe range value of 1746.4-2839.4 from soil subjected to Cassava processing activities. The Fe of the control site is within the anthropogenic iron range of 14.7% to 47.5%, though Fe has been reported at elevated levels in Nigerian soils [20,27]. The

values of Fe reported in this study were higher than the allowable limit set by WHO for all the sites.

The concentration of Cd of the abandoned site ranged from 0.008 to 0.0545 mg/kg, with an average value of 0.0882 mg/kg, while that of the active site ranged from 0.0175 to 0.3415 mg/kg, with an average value of 0.2027 mg/kg. The Cd concentration of the control site was negligible or not detected. The reported Cd values of this study were lower to the one reported for Cassava processing mill [20], dumpsite [28,15,16], automobile workshop [23]. High concentration of Cd can lead to neurotoxin and hypertension, as well as mutagenic, liver or kidney dysfunction in the human system [29]. Cd was undetected at the control site; however, other values exceeded the allowable limit of WHO.

The concentration of Cu of the abandoned site ranged from 0.9822 to 1.9009 mg/kg, with an average value of 1.3913 mg/kg, while that of the active site ranged from 3.0071 to 3.4712 mg/kg, with an average value of 3.2616 mg/kg were all greater than that of the control site (0.2341 mg/kg). The reported Cu of this study was lower in concentration as compared with Cu reported by Oluseyi *et al.*, [30], Bello *et al.*, [16], Shittu *et al.*, [31] and Afolagboye *et al.*, [14] for dumpsites. Awokunmi, *et al.*, [22] reported that biodegradable waste introduced metallic Cu into soil at levels greater than natural loads. The reported values exceeded the WHO allowable limit except at the control site (Table 7).

**Table 8. Contamination Index of Heavy Metals**

Plots	Sampling Distance	Contamination Factor						DCI	MDC	PLI
		Cu	Cr	Cd	Fe	Pb	Zn			
<b>Active Dumpsite</b>	20	13.25	1.79	-	0.48	2270.08	1.23	2286.83	381.14	7.95
	40	12.85	2.95	-	0.41	1929.85	1.18	1946.06	324.34	8.12
	60	22.45	1.71	-	0.44	1586.77	1.14	1612.51	268.75	7.89
	80	14.42	1.6	-	0.48	258.86	1.19	276.55	46.09	5.09
	100	10.66	1.34	-	0.43	1675.06	0.98	1688.47	281.41	6.23
<b>Abandoned Dumpsite</b>	20	6.67	2.57	-	0.24	631.5	0.48	641.46	106.91	4.16
	40	3.94	2.56	-	0.23	372.21	0.42	379.36	63.23	3.25
	60	12.72	1.33	-	0.23	288.71	0.36	303.35	50.56	3.32
	80	6.01	1.40	-	0.26	18.18	0.29	26.14	4.36	1.63
	100	3.48	1.10	-	0.25	75.06	0.30	80.19	13.37	1.85

Key: DCI= Degree of Contamination Index, MDC=Modified Degree of Contamination, PLI= Pollution Load Index



The concentration of Cr of the abandoned site ranged from 0.3012 to 0.5764 mg/kg (Table 6), with an average value of 0.3693 mg/Kg, while that of the active site ranged from 0.3789 to 0.4119 mg/kg, with an average value of 0.3983 mg/kg were all greater than that of the control site (0.2264 mg/Kg). Iwegbue *et al.*, [20] reported 3.7-29.5mg/kg in the soil around cassava milling area which is higher than the present study. Also, the Cr values reported in this study are lower than those reported for dumpsites [32,31,14]; however, the value was higher than those reported for dumpsites [33,11]. The values of Cu reported in this study exceeded the WHO acceptable limit.

The concentration of Zn in abandoned site was higher than all other metals with concentration ranged from 3.0377 to 4.7902 mg/kg, with an average value of 4.0140 mg/kg, while that of active site ranged from 12.1748 to 12.7711 mg/kg, with an average value of 12.4111 mg/kg were all greater than that of control site (10.905 mg/kg) were all greater than that of the control site (10.905 mg/kg). Eludoyin and Ogbe [23] reported 73.6mg/kg of Zn in the soil of automobile workshop while Iwegbue *et al.*, [20] reported 21.9-97.3 mg/kg of Zn in the soil around cassava milling area. The reported Zn values for this study were lower than those reported for dumpsites [25,32,14,11]. The values of Zn reported for all sites exceeded the WHO allowable limit. According to Awokunmi, *et al.*, [22], Zn is introduced into the environment through automobile oil, rubber and Zn-containing waste.

Series of anthropogenic activities have it influence on the concentration level of heavy metals in the soil as was observed in the dumpsites studied. The concentration of heavy metals obtained from the study can be arranged in a descending order (highest to the lowest in terms of contamination);

Active dumpsite: Zn > Fe > Cu > Pb > Cr > Cd;  
Abandoned dumpsite: Zn > Fe > Cu > Pb > Cr > Cd and Control site: Fe > Zn > Cu > Cr > Pb > Cd

### 3.3 Contamination Assessment

The results of the contamination assessment indices such as CF, DC, MDC and PLI were presented in Table 8.

The CF of the Cu, Cr, Fe, Pb and Zn for the active dumpsite was 10.66-13.25, 1.34-1.79, 0.41-0.48, 258.86-2270.08 and 0.98-1.23 respectively while the CF of the heavy metals for abandoned dumpsite was 3.48-6.67, 1.10-2.57, 0.24-0.25, 18.18-75.06 and 0.29-0.48 for Cu, Cr, Fe, Pb and Zn respectively. Based on CF classification, heavy metal such as Cu and Pb deemed “very high contamination”, Cr and Zn are “moderate contamination” while Fe was deemed “low contamination” in the active site. The CF classification of abandoned dumpsite showed that Pb is deemed “very high contamination”, Cr and Zn are “moderate contamination” while Cu was deemed “considerable high” and Fe was deemed “low contamination”. The CF of the heavy metals follows order: Pb > Cu > Cr > Zn > Fe for both dumpsites.

The DC ranged from 1612.51 to 2286.83 which indicated very high degree of contamination at the active dumpsite while DC ranged from 26.14 to 641.46 indicating very high degree of contamination at the abandoned dumpsite. MDC ranged from 46.09 to 381.14 for active dumpsite which indicated “ultra-high degree of contamination” and 4.36 to 106.91 for abandoned dumpsite indicating high degree of contamination to ultra-high degree of contamination. The PLI value ranged from 5.08 to 8.12 for active dumpsite which indicated polluted soil while the PLI value of abandoned dumpsite ranged from 1.63 to 4.16 indicating polluted soil with various heavy metals.

## 4. CONCLUSION

The study concluded that the heavy metals in the soil of the active and abandoned dumpsites were all above the WHO allowable limit except for the Cu in the abandoned dumpsite. Metals in the soil sample of the control site were within WHO allowable limit except for Cr, Fe and Zn. The high value of CF, DC and MDC indicated that the soil of the dumpsites poses ecological risk especially for heavy metals such as Cu and Pb; hence, the CF of the heavy metals follows order: Pb > Cu > Cr > Zn > Fe for both dumpsites. The soil from the dumpsites are deemed polluted based on the PLI value and possess ecological and health-related issue in human.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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